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amount of force employed. The letters are too bulky to be printed in full, especially as many of the items are to be found in the newspapers. The present volume is therefore made up of selections and the work of editing has demanded an accurate and complete knowledge of the literature of the period, which no one possesses to a more eminent degree than the present editor.

Mr. Firth has greatly facilitated the examination of the volume by an admirable extended preface. There is much upon the various Parliaments, the proffer of kingship, the West Indian expedition and the campaign in Flanders. There are few notices concerning Scotland, these having been selected and printed for the Scottish History Society by the same editor. There is comparatively little on foreign or colonial affairs, with the exception of the two campaigns just mentioned, or on religious matters. Of special interest are seven speeches by Cromwell. Two very short ones are not in Carlyle, one being "the substance of his Highnesse answer" from the Clarendon Manuscripts. Four differ so little from Carlyle's version that the variations only are given, while one (speech XVIII in Carlyle) differs sufficiently to warrant its being printed in full. The appendix contains three papers of importance from other sources than the Clarke Manuscripts. The first is a memorial on foreign affairs presented to the Protector by Colonel Sexby on his return from the south of France, advocating an alliance with Spain. The second is the most important paper in the whole volume, being notes of debates on the West Indian expedition in two meetings of the Council. It not only shows clearly the motives of the expedition, but gives us a glimpse into the inner workings of the Council. The third and final paper is a curious letter by Nehemiah Bourne from the Massachusetts State Archives, giving interesting facts about the fall of Richard.

GUERNSEY JONES.

The Man in the Iron Mask. By TIGHE HOPKINS. (New York : Charles Scribner's Sons. 1901. Pp. xvi, 368.)

MR. HOPKINS has made no new investigations as to the mystery of the of the Man in the Iron Mask, but he has given the results of the work done by the latest and best French authorities. He has given it also in a clear and agreeable form, and those interested in this historical problem, and they are many, will read this book with pleasure, and will have the satisfaction of feeling that, in all probability, the riddle is satisfactorily solved.

As is the case with many other mysteries, when the truth is discovered the matter is found not to be very important. The Man in the Iron Mask owes his fame, not so much to his own importance, or even to the nature of the punishment he suffered, as to the fact that Voltaire brought his case before the public, and suggested solutions of the problem with the ingenuity and literary skill that made any subject interesting. And here was a theme peculiarly fitted to excite popular interest. An extra-

ordinary punishment must have owed its origin either to an extraordinary crime, or to a mystery that would be dangerous to the state if it became known. The Man in the Iron Mask aroused an interest accorded to few historical characters. Hundreds of books, and thousands of pamphlets and essays have dealt with this alluring theme.

Mr. Hopkins reviews the most noteworthy efforts that have been made to identify the captive. Doubtless Voltaire's famous suggestion that a brother of Louis XIV. had been kept concealed from the knowledge of the world has been the most pleasing to the public. Among the many theories advanced, this had the least foundation, and found the most believers. The Duke of Beaufort, the Duke of Monmouth, Fouquet and Vermandois, were at least real personages, even though there was no evidence to show that any of them could have been the mysterious prisoner. Voltaire's theory lacked even that basis; there was no illegitimate brother of Louis XIV., whose existence anyone needed to conceal, and the incidents by which the great writer lent verisimilitude to his hypothesis existed for the most part only in his imagination.

In the light of all the evidence, the famous entry in the minutes of the Bastille, made when the prisoner was received there in 1698, which spoke of a man who was always masked and whose name was never mentioned, was probably inaccurate. From this entry the tradition of the Man with the Iron Mask has taken its rise. The "iron mask" was indeed a fiction of Voltaire's imagination; an iron mask the prisoner never wore, but only one of the light velvet masks covering part of the face, which were in common use in those days, and can now be seen at any masked ball. But, furthermore, there seems little reason to suppose that ordinarily the prisoner was kept masked. During the early part of his confinement, the secret of his identity was carefully guarded, but long before his imprisonment ended with his death, there is nothing to show that he was kept masked except when moved from one prison to another. So the Man with the Iron Mask becomes very nearly a man with no mask at all.

It has long been supposed that Count Mattioli was the famous prisoner, but some breaks in the evidence rendered it impossible to identify him satisfactorily, and historians had come to regard the problem as insoluble. By the unwearied industry of M. Topin, the missing links have been discovered, and apparently it is now established beyond all reasonable doubt that the prisoner who was received at Pignerol in 1679, and who ended his life in the Bastille in 1703, after thirty-four years of confinement, was Count Mattioli, a gentleman born in Bologna in 1640, and afterwards in the service of Charles IV., Duke of Mantua.

It has been argued that a man of so little importance would not have been guarded with such extraordinary care, but when Mattioli was first imprisoned, his conduct had been especially distasteful to Louis XIV., and yet, as the subject of a foreign prince, his arrest was in defiance of the law of nations, and it would have been inconvenient to have such an act of underhand violence brought to the attention of Europe.

Therefore it was, that while Louis was resolved to punish with severity a man who while professing to be his emissary had betrayed his secrets to other powers, yet he also desired that the method of punishment should be concealed, and the identity of the unlucky offender should be destroyed. "You will guard him in such a manner that no one may know you have a new prisoner," was the order given by Louvois in 1679, while the King's own direction was that no one should know what became of the man. Mattioli was secretly arrested, his face was masked when he was carried to the prison, and for many years special pains were taken to conceal the fact that a subject of the Duke of Mantua was kept, in violation of international law and all law, in a French fortress.

Long before the death of the ill-fated Mattioli, he had ceased to be important. He was kept in confinement, as was many another luckless prisoner, because it would have been inconvenient to let him out, and the manner of his confinement, exaggerated by some careless entries in the prison records, and seized upon by the most ingenious of writers, made of him a famous character.

Apparently the mystery is solved. It was not so much of a mystery as was supposed, but Mr. Hopkins's book gives in readable form the truth about the "man in the mask," and some account of the ingenious fictions that have been composed in reference to "The Man in the Iron Mask."

JAMES BRECK PERKINS.

The Rise of the Russian Empire. By HECTOR H. MUNRO. (Boston: L. L. Page and Co.; London: Grant Richards. 1900. Pp. xii, 334.)

MR. MUNRO has chosen a good field. In these days when the increasing importance of the Russian Empire and everything concerning it are being universally recognized, a clear account of the early history and development of this mighty state should appeal to the general public as well as to the scholar. In English we have hitherto had almost nothing on the subject, except Rallston's little book and the few chapters in the translation of Rambaud. Here was a chance for an excellent bit of work. We do not demand original investigation or close acquaintance with the sources; a satisfactory knowledge of the latest results of Russian scholarship, and the ability to make use of them could have furnished us with all we ask for. The task was tempting and not too difficult. How has it been fulfilled in the present volume?

We turn, to begin with, to the "list of Works consulted," "arranged somewhat in the order in which they have been found useful." At the head of them stands the French translation of Karamzin, published in 1819. This is a shock. Of course, Karamzin is a classic whom every student of Russian history should consult, but what should we think of a foreigner who cited as his first authority for a new history of England, a French translation of Hume? Continuing, we see in the list many valu-